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STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS

On 19 and 20 June 1997, the Secretary-General held meetings with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Portugal, Mr. Ali Alatas and Mr. Jaime Gama, on the question of East Timor.

The discussions were intensive, frank and constructive. After this morning's meeting, the following decisions were reached:

1. The discussions will continue at the working level chaired by the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor, Mr. Jamsheed Marker. The first meeting will take place beginning on 28 July 1997. Both sides have agreed that the discussions will be kept confidential.

2. The All-inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue will continue. Every effort will be made to hold the next meeting in August 1997. The Personal Representative of the Secretary-General will carry out the necessary preparatory consultations for this purpose.

The Secretary-General expressed his thanks to the two Ministers for their presence in New York and for the constructive and cooperative spirit in which the discussions were conducted.